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REMARKS:

OA page 2 #1 - a new title has replaced the previous title.

OA page 2 #2 - The section describing the figures has been amended

OA page 2 #3 - the figures include 12 and 15 and show different cover positions that are now better described in the "DRAWINGS -- Reference Numerals" section that has been added by this amendment. No replacement sheets have been proposed at this time.

OA page 3 #4 - The claims have been restructured to what the applicant believes is an appropriate form.

OA page 3 #5 and #6 - Provided above are a) slot Location, b) slot dimensions, and c) the number of them equal spaced about the barrel. This combination should supply enough information about the preferred embodiment to be considered "enabling." The sizing was determined by use of imperial methods and has been further established by reviews of users in actual game play.

OA page 4 #7 - The prior references regarding sound pressure levels being reduced is in comparison to having openings without covers in a standard barrel, or when compared to Havlock.

One skilled in the art would have knowledge that a gun without a barrel is far louder than a gun that has periodic holes that distribution of gas exhausted down the length of a barrel. It would then follow that the sound pressure level of this invention will be greater than that and with the cover installed be returned to that standard barrel sound level.

OA page 4 #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12 - the Inventor believes the changes made to the claims and specification resolves the issue.

OA page 5 #13 and 14 - Havlock - has been added to the prior art section of the specification by the amendments included here within. It should be noted that Havlock is a barrel made with rods, and Goepfert's invention is limited to slots or openings within a standard gun barrel itself. Agreed the problem is the same, but the inventor believes the method of correcting same is different. Havlock's openings are effectively the entire length of their barrel. The inventor's is a standard barrel modification, and has a much more stable and less effected by change in path that is associated by Havlock's design. Goepfert believes that his invention is still worthy of a patent even in light of Havlock and the problems it leaves unanswered.

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OA page 5 ##15 and 16 - Cossio - the device described by Cossio is intended to protect the public from misfiring before and after the actual game play. It is a safety device. As noted in the following paragraph it has an open end (receiving the end of the barrel) and a closed end. A closed end at the end of the barrel can have no other purpose but to rupture paint balls in the event of a misfire. Hence the title "Barrel Blocking Device", it is not intended to block gases or to block the material of a ruptured paintball in normal game play.

"A blocking device is provided for a firearm barrel. The blocking device has a cover member, which may be substantially moisture-proof and may be embroidered, embossed, or silk-screened. The cover member has a closed end and an open end, the open end receiving an end of the barrel. A retaining device is affixed to the cover member and reasonably holds the end of the barrel in the closed end of the cover member." taken from the Abstract of Cossio 2003005614.

Goepfert's cover is intended to replace the outside barrel and cover the slots so that a modified barrel can function normally. This is hardly the intent of Cossio's cover design.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that the claim defines patentable subject matter.

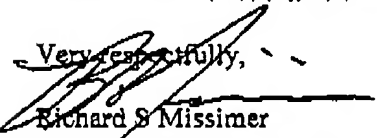
Therefore Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action Applicant respectfully solicits.

In the event that the changes made do not satisfy the issues, the applicant requests an interview with the examiner to demonstrate the invention and answer any questions they might have about it.

Conditional Request for Constructive Assistance

Applicant has amended the specification and claim of this application so that they are proper and definite. If for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests the "constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner" pursuant to M.P.E.P. 2173.02 and 707.07(j) in order that the Applicant can place this application in allowance condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,


Richard S Missimer
Patent Agent for Applicant
USPTO Reg # 45,537

Certification of Facsimile Transmission: I certify that on the date below I faxed this paper to GAU 3641 of the US Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.

2005 August 10


Richard S Missimer (USPTO Reg # 45,537)